

From: OldManFromSceneTwentyFive
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/27/02 8:49pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am writing with respect United States v. Microsoft proposed settlement. As a student of technology, specifically Electrical and Computer Engineering, and an Open Source (GNU General Public License) advocate, I have a somewhat unique vantage point from which to analyze Microsoft's reign over the PC industry. When Microsoft's overpriced products are compared with open-source free products it becomes clear that something is wrong. The software that Microsoft offers, in terms of security, useability, and stability, is putrid. The situation is somewhat akin to rope and rats being processed into canned meats before regulations were passed. Unfortunately, simple regulations are not possible in this quickly evolving field. The only force capable of protecting the public is competition. Microsoft's monopoly is like no other. The nature of the electronic frontier allow many new ways for Microsoft to stifle competition, and as a result they will always be one step ahead of the law. This is why I believe much stronger action is required. I favor honorable judge Thomas Penfield Jackson's suggestion, that Microsoft be required to provide accurate disclosure of, and support for, their programming interfaces (APIs, see Jackson's Finding of Facts), enabling third parties to develop interoperable systems with Microsoft's own offerings.

-Eric Innis (transient_earthworm@yahoo.com)

--- Faux Pas III <fauxpas@temp123.org> wrote:

- > Under the provisions of the Tunney act, American citizens
- > have the
- > right to comment on federal antitrust settlements such as
- > DoJ vs Microsoft.
- >
- > Information about the suit, including the text of the
- > proposed
- > settlement, are here:
- >
- > http://www.usdoj.gov/atr/cases/ms_index.htm
- >
- > To let the federal government know how you feel about the
- > settlement,
- > send mail here, subject 'Microsoft Settlement':

> microsoft.atr@usdoj.gov
>
> Inside sources say that responses received thus far have
> been
> overwhelmingly in favor of Microsoft, and have mostly
> come from
> Microsoft employees and others that the corporation has
> solicited
> to submit their opinions.
>
> In case anybody cares, here's what I said. ;-)
>
>
> I am writing with respect to my concerns with the
> settlement reached
> with Microsoft in the DoJ suit, regarding anticompetitive
> practices
> and abuse of monopoly power. I am a professional working
> in the
> field of computer network security, and I have witnessed
> throughout
> the years a host of situations in which the American
> public have been
> victimized by Microsoft's abuse of their overwhelming
> monopoly. Based
> on my reading of the proposed settlement, I feel obliged
> to comment
> that the remedies put forth thereby will be greatly
> inadequate to
> reintroduce competition into the numerous markets
> currently owned
> by Microsoft, or to mitigate the tangible damage in terms
> of both
> direct financial loss and, indirectly, through an absence
> of customer
> service, attention to security and stability and the
> end-user's rights
> of fair use.
>
> As an alternative remedy, I favor the suggestion put
> forth by the
> honorable judge Thomas Penfield Jackson, that Microsoft
> be required to
> provide accurate disclosure of, and support for, their
> programming
> interfaces (APIs, see Jackson's Finding of Facts),
> enabling third
> parties to develop interoperable systems with Microsoft's
> own

> offerings. This would, in my opinion as a computing
> professional,
> reintroduce customer choice into the marketplace and
> encourage
> merit-based competition, ultimately benefiting consumers
> through
> improved value offerings as well as a more rapid pace of
> innovation,
> which has been largely stifled during the period of
> Microsoft's
> unshakeable dominance.
>
> In short, I wish to cast my voice into the pool of those
> who, as
> registered voters and as active participants in the
> United States
> economy, insist that Microsoft's transgressions be dealt
> with
> fairly, decisively, effectively, and expeditiously.
>
> --
> Josh Litherland (fauxpas@temp123.org)
>

=====

"give me my shoes, and Ill give you your eye."

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